

AUGUST
2016

safety Newsletter



Administration



A hurricane can be a devastating and terrifying experience, but these hurricane safety tips are designed to help individuals and families minimize potential hazards, damage and injuries. The official United States hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30. The most active period for hurricane formation is from mid-August through mid-September. Despite the immense damage that hurricanes can inflict, the best part of the storms is their predictability. Unlike tornados, earthquakes, and other quick natural disasters, weather forecasters can frequently track hurricanes for days before the storms become an imminent threat. This gives individuals ample warning to help protect themselves, and many precautions can be taken long before any storms form.

Before Hurricane Season

Many large safety tasks can be completed long before hurricane season begins, and following these tips can help individuals avoid rushing or forgetting essential tasks:

- Map potential evacuation routes in all directions away from the coast, and learn about available hotels and where local storm shelters are located and what supplies will and will not be provided.
- Purchase hurricane shutters or plywood to cover windows, glass doors and other weak spots.
- Verify that insurance policies are adequate to cover potential damage, including flooding and water damage.
- Create a record of valuable possessions and obtain copies of necessary important papers, including birth certificates, business licenses and insurance policies. Store in a secure location, such as bank deposit box, outside the hurricane danger zone.
- Prune trees and other plants so they are not close enough to structures to cause inadvertent damage.
- Create an emergency hurricane kit stocked with non-perishable items such as flashlights, canned food, games, books, a first aid kit, portable radio, generator and other necessities.

When a Storm Approaches

When hurricane watches and warnings are issued, it is time to begin more urgent preparations to weather the storm, and these hurricane safety tips can help:

- Gas up all vehicles.
- Withdraw extra cash from bank accounts and print out updated financial statements.
- Secure hurricane shutters and plywood.
- Tie down saplings, lawn furniture and other outdoor fixtures that cannot be taken inside.
- Stock up on non-perishable food, bottled water and essential medications.
- Add perishable items such as medications and food to the hurricane emergency kit.
- Make arrangements for pets to be boarded in safe locations or prepare safety kits for them.
- Cover pools, outdoor vehicles and other items with securely fastened tarps to minimize damage.
- Advise concerned family members and friends about your preparations and give them emergency contact information if available.
- Prepare a safe location in an interior, ground floor room with few or no windows to wait out the storm.

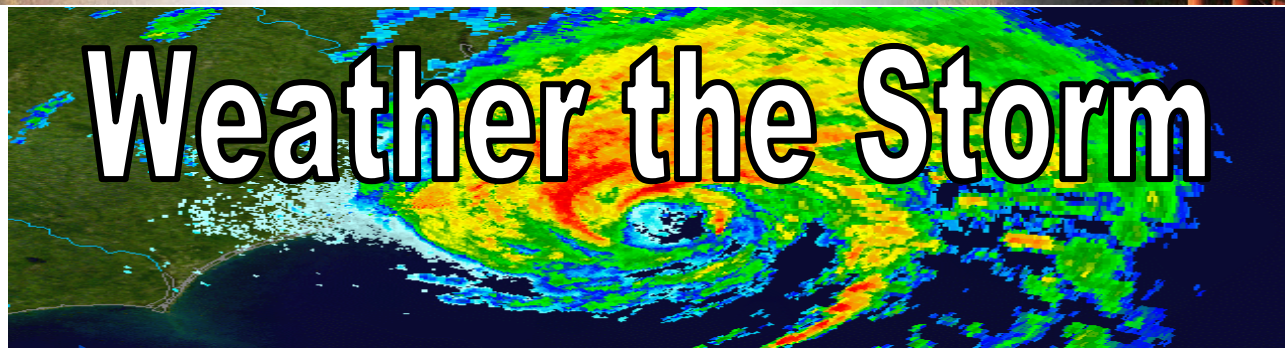
Emergency Kit Checklist





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During the Storm

A hurricane can last for several hours depending on the storm's size and how it is approaching. During the storm, electricity may be cut off and other problems can occur, but these safety tips can help make the wait as the storm passes more comfortable.

- Stay calm and relaxed as the storm passes.
- Stay indoors at all times, even as the eye passes, because flying debris and unexpected wind gusts can be dangerous.
- Keep updated by watching weather forecasts, news coverage, or listening to the radio if possible.
- Keep children calm by playing games or pursuing normal activities as much as possible.
- As the storm intensifies, stay in the safe room and away from windows or other dangerous spots.
- Turn the refrigerator to its coldest setting and avoid opening it as much as possible.
- Minimize telephone use and other electronic diversions that could carry lightning strikes.

CAT.	WINDS	DAMAGE
1	74-95 MPH	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage
2	96-110 MPH	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage
3	111-129 MPH	Devastating damage will occur
4	130-156 MPH	Catastrophic damage will occur
5	> 156 MPH	Catastrophic damage will occur

After the Storm

After the hurricane has passed the sense of relief can be overwhelming, but additional caution is necessary to avoid dangerous situations from the storm's damage.



- Tend to all first aid needs immediately.
- Keep telephone lines clear for emergency services.
- Stay home and avoid travel to keep roads open for emergency vehicles.
- If evacuation was necessary, return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Do not enter severely damaged buildings until they have been inspected.
- Report downed power lines immediately and stay clear of them.
- Avoid overexertion that can lead to heat stroke, exhaustion and other injuries.
- Use stored food and water if other supplies have been contaminated.
- Stay clear of flooded areas.

Be patient - it may take hours or days to restore services after a severe storm, but officials are working as fast as possible to help citizens resume their lives.

*For more Hurricane Information visit www.safety.lovetoknow.com/Hurricane_Safety_Tips or www.nhc.noaa.gov



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As summer draws to a close, back-to-school season is in full effect. Remember to safely share the roads with school buses, pedestrians and bicyclists, and provide children with the necessary knowledge to stay safe at school. Unfortunately, the beginning of school is also a time when children are at increased risk of transportation related injuries because there are many more children on the road each morning and afternoon.

School Zone Driving Safety Tips

- Be on the lookout for school zone signals and ALWAYS obey the speed limits.
- When entering a school zone, be sure to slow down and obey all traffic laws.
- Always stop for school busses that are loading or unloading children.
- Watch out for school crossing guards and obey their signals.
- Be aware of and watch out for children near schools, bus stops, sidewalks, in the streets, in school parking lots, etc.
- Never pass other vehicles or change lanes while driving in a school zone.

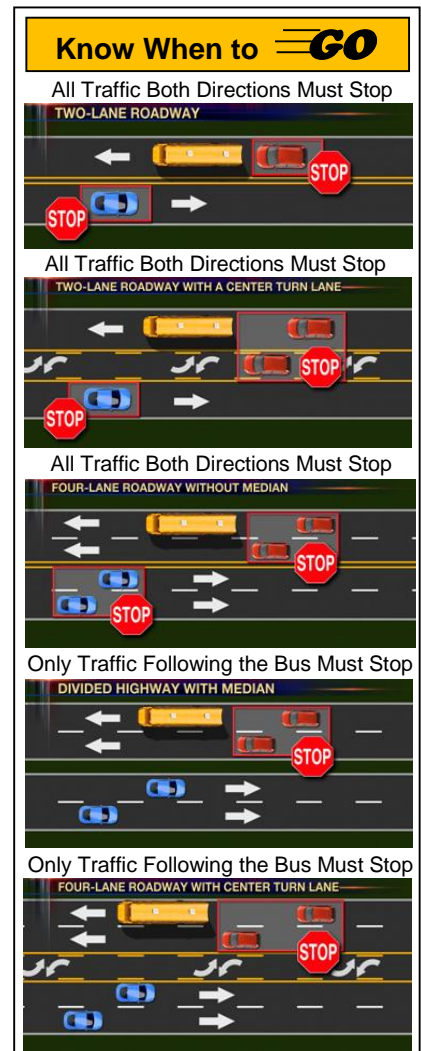
Walking to School

- Leave early enough to arrive at school at least 10 minutes prior to the start of school.
- Use the same route every day and never use shortcuts.
- Go straight home after school. Do not go anywhere else without permission.
- Try and walk to school with other students. There is strength in numbers.
- Teach your children to recognize and obey traffic signals, signs, and pavement markings.
- Only cross streets at designated crosswalks, street corners and traffic controlled intersections.
- Always look both ways before crossing the street and never enter streets from between obstacles like parked cars, shrubbery, signs, etc.
- Always walk and never run across intersections.

School Bus Safety

- Make habit of arriving at the bus stop at least five minutes before the scheduled arrival of the bus.
- Make sure your child stays out of the street and avoids excessive horseplay while waiting for the school bus.
- Be sure the bus comes to a complete stop before getting on or off.
- When riding the bus, make sure your child understands they must remain seated and keep their head and arms inside the bus at all times.
- Do not shout or distract the driver.
- Do not walk in the driver's "blind spot" – this is the area from the front of the bus to about 10 feet in front of the bus.

For more Back-to-school Safety visit www.protection1.com/home-security-systems/learn/home-security-basics/safety-tips/back-to-school-safety/ or www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/back-to-school-safety-tips.aspx





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PROTECT YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY

AGAINST HOME INVASION



A home invasion is when robbers force their way into an occupied home, apartment or hotel room to commit a robbery or other crime. The entry point of attack is often through the front door, garage or an unlocked window. It is very important for the occupant to not automatically open the front door before asking who is there because home invaders often knock on the door first or ring the bell with the hope that the resident will simply open the door, without question, and in most cases people do just that.

WHO ARE TARGETS OF HOME INVASION?

Women living alone, a wealthy senior citizen or anyone randomly picked based on the value of the car driven or the jewelry worn. Some home invaders may have been in your home before as a delivery person, installation technician or service person.

TIPS TO PROTECT YOU FROM BECOMING A HOME INVASION ROBBERY VICTIM:

- All exterior doors should be solid-core wood or steel and the hinges must be on the inside.
- Use doors that feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use.
- Keep doors and windows closed and securely fastened. Doors should have deadbolt locks with a 1" throw and reinforced strike plate with 3" screws.
- Secure sliding glass doors. Install vertical bolts to prevent forced entry or lifting it off the track.
- Keep the perimeter of your home well lighted. Low voltage outdoor lighting discourages intruders.
- Don't hide a key on your property, criminals will find them, no matter how clever you think we are.
- Store jewelry, large amounts of cash and other valuables in a safety deposit box.
- If you are not expecting a visitor, do not automatically open the door! With the door closed and locked, ask for identification and why they are there.
- Never rely on a chain-latch as a barrier to partially open the door; a home invader will kick in the door.
- Install and USE a professionally installed home security system. Home invasion robbers know most homeowners do not arm their system when they are home. Don't make that critical mistake.
- The best defense against home invasion is education and planning; have a family meeting to discuss your home security plans.



IF YOU ARE CONFRONTED BY HOME INVASION ROBBERS:

- Stay calm.
- Cooperate. There is no amount of money or property worth getting hurt or losing your life over.
- Don't fight back. Instead, concentrate on getting information so you can be an effective witness.
- Look carefully at the intruders, even if they are masked. Is there something unique about them such as scars, tattoos, eye color, accents, large or small facial features such as nose or ears?

**For more information visit

www.nationalsafety.wordpress.com/category/family/